

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 12, 2006

Redmond City Council Chambers

“Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors”

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Roy Leban, Vice Chair Heidi Houghton, Phil Teller, Kay Tarapolsi, Latha Sambamurti, Tom Flynn, John Davis

ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Program Manager; Dorie Lysaght, Recording Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT: Ted Pankowski, Joe MacKechnie, Karen Besserman, Marita Dingus, Maxine Dingus, Linda J. Teller, Lisa Shine

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AGENDA

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Roy Leban called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:04 p.m. at the Redmond City Council Chambers.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of December 8, 2005 as submitted by:
Commissioner Tarapolsi

Second by: Commissioner Flynn

Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

Motion for approval of the Agenda: Commissioner Houghton

Second by: Commissioner Teller

Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous

IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. 2005 Organizational Support Grants Final Reports

1. Eastside Association of Fine Arts (EAFA)

Ted Pankowski, current president of EAFA, and Joe MacKechnie, current vice-president and president-elect of EAFA, thanked the Commission for their financial support and encouragement. EAFA's report was distributed and a slide presentation was given. Tarapolsi asked that EAFA continue to hold an annual show in Redmond and suggested that they might be eligible for tourism grants if they worked with the Town Center Marriott. Their 2005 grant was for \$1200.

2. SecondStory Repertory

Karen Besserman, representative of SecondStory Repertory, distributed materials and gave an overview of their 2004-05 season. She thanked the Commissioners for their continued support. Their 2005 grant was for \$1500.

B. 2006 Arts Awards

Marita Dingus presented two sample pieces for the 2006 Arts Awards for feedback from the Commissioners. Both were figures, one in fabric and one in cork. She mentioned that either piece could be customized to include a baby picture of the recipient or could include items that incorporate the type of work they did if she was given the details in advance. She could also draw a face on the figure if the recipient did not want to submit a picture. Skillingstead stated that she could have the recipient names by the end of March. Dingus plans to include the required City of Redmond logo and recipient details as a banner or ribbon in the hands of each figure.

VI. GENERAL RAC BUSINESS

A. Chair/Vice Chair Report

Houghton reported that she had turned in her volunteer sheets for 2005 and asked other commissioners to submit their sheets to staff.

B. January RAC Call for Nominations (Elections February)

Leban stated that because there has been no set procedure for RAC elections, he and Bettencourt worked on a document to set guidelines for this year. These guidelines were distributed. Tarapolsi asked if the vote would be done by a show of hands and Bettencourt and Leban answered that it did not matter how the vote was done as long as it was not done by secret ballot. Davis suggested that the

candidates be allowed additional time to answer questions after their statements. Bettencourt stated that additional time would be fine if the RAC approves and that an ad hoc committee can later review the bylaws to come up with a permanent election policy.

Motion for approval for 2006 only of the Election Guidelines with the addition of allowing extra time for questions after candidate statements: Commissioner Houghton

Second by: Commissioner Tarapolsi

Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous

Bettencourt asked for nominations for the Chair position. She indicated that she had been informed that Commissioner Teller was interested and asked him for his statement. Teller read his statement:

“I would like to announce my intention to run for a second term as chair of the City of Redmond Arts Commission. I would also at this time like to nominate Tom Flynn as Vice Chair.

Over the next 12 month period, my goals will be to provide experienced and substantive leadership to the commission, a positive working relationship with staff and city personnel, to be a role model to my successor and to provide an atmosphere of cooperation, and mentorship in the areas of fairness, honesty, integrity, and responsibility to all who work and play in the proximity of my influence.

I believe it is important for the commission to be forward focused, so as to implement policies and procedures that will allow us to become facilitators in the community in the arts, and mentors to those who will follow in our footsteps. I believe that important work is being done in the areas of the arts that our body considers including, grant funding, performance, visual, literary, and arts education but also believe we need to focus our attention on the future of our commission, our community, and our commitment to our core values for years to come.

I would like to re-implement the study of a 3 to 5 year plan, and establish a new program of mentorship that will provide the arts commission with trained leadership for years to come.

I believe each person on the commission should have an equal voice, and that all voices should be afforded the respect of being heard to the completion of their contribution in a fair and responsible manner.

Thank you.”

Bettencourt asked Commissioner Leban for his statement for the Chair position.

“So, I didn’t really write anything. I wrote a few notes. I don’t have any agenda for the next year. It’s your agenda. If I look back at the last year, I think that all the things that are the best things we did aren’t me. They are performing arts, they are Andrew Carson’s piece, which is here. It’s not out the window, it’s at the other building, but it’s beautiful. And on that piece, I was actually a little

skeptical myself but it's stunning and I'm just so happy that we have it. My goal is simply to facilitate, it's simply to organize. Melna and I have spent time on a year round agenda and I actually thought you were going to bring it to this meeting. Oh, it's in this. It's here and we're going to try and use that on an ongoing basis as opposed to, you know, we saw it once a year and then it vanished. I think an organization in which we're trying to be organized, we're trying not to repeat ourselves, and that's one of the things that I saw that the commission has historically done. And, you know, government agencies you tend to -- we've got all these things we've got to do. Something I'm excited about is the Poet Laureate idea and it wasn't even on the list before and if it comes to fruition I think it could be really cool. I want to encourage everybody to come up with ideas like that. And if absolutely none of the ideas that we do anything with next year are mine, I'm fine with that. I'm going to be around for three more years after that and I'll have plenty of time to come up with my own ideas. Right now, it's very good if the commission can move forward and do new things. That's really about it. Helping to improve the relationship with the city. It's weird, we're adversaries and we're partners. Trying to make sure that that relationship works all the time is important. Finally, I'm really glad that I don't agree with all of you all the time because that would not be fun. It's great to be wrong. It's great to have the diversity on this commission. I'm glad that we're having two new commissioners come. We'll have a little more diversity. So, I think it will be a fun year. That's all I have to say. Thank you for the opportunity."

Bettencourt asked for any other Chair candidates. There were none. She indicated that Commissioner Flynn had expressed interest in the Vice Chair position and invited him to give his statement. Flynn read his statement:

"Thank you for your nomination, Phil and Roy. I am placing my name into consideration for the position of Vice-Chair for the Arts Commission. This leadership position interests me because I want the opportunity to apply my strong leadership skills in helping the commission make a shift towards a more strategic and advisory role. I am reminded of an arts commission meeting at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse last year where Danny Hopkins, the Parks and Recreation Director, and Tom Trueblood, Parks and Recreation Manager, clearly challenged us to do less programming and staff type work, and to focus more on our main mission -- and that to me is to be an advisory group to the city of Redmond on behalf of its citizens and to think and act strategically about the arts in our community. When I think about how we operate as a commission and make decisions, that meeting is my touchstone. My hope is that over the next year or two, we have opportunities as a group to make strides towards the completion of a new strategic plan for the Arts Commission and for the arts in the city of Redmond. We have made some very important steps in that direction with the superb work of the ad hoc strategic visioning committee. As Vice-Chair, I expect to support the Chair and City Staff to continue to facilitate this process in a collaborative manner, and I am particularly supportive of a retreat with an outside

facilitator to speed this forward. Although just a few months ago I turned this position down, my work schedule right now has lightened enough for me to take on this added responsibility. Thank you for your consideration.”

Tarapolsi commented: “I’m the one who nominated you and you turned it down. Do you foresee your work schedule not being as heavy for the rest of the year? Because this is going to be a year commitment.”

Flynn answered: “When this was brought up last year, I had just started working and I had been going from basically working on my PhD that I had just finished. I was completely on my own schedule and had not worked a regular shift in years. So, not only was I starting a new job and all of the work, but readjusting to that schedule was huge. And so when that came up for me at that time, it was just one more thing that I didn’t need at that time. So right now I definitely have a lot more mental space to be able to do this. And not just because my workload has lightened but just because I’ve gone through that transition time from not working to working. So definitely I have a lot more time and availability to commit.”

Tarapolsi stated: “The Vice Chair position has traditionally been a stepping stone to the Chair position. Do you see yourself moving on in that position too?”

Flynn answered: “I would definitely consider it.”

Bettencourt asked: “As staff, because the Vice Chair position has traditionally been used for collecting time sheets and standing in when the Chair cannot be at meetings. Of the candidates running for Vice Chair tonight, could you briefly address how you could see the Vice Chair used in a different way. What are some of your ideas, not putting you on the spot.”

Leban suggested that Bettencourt hold that question until after Houghton had spoken to allow all Vice Chair candidates to answer at the same time. Bettencourt indicated that she had not formally heard from Houghton about her intention to run for Vice Chair. She asked Houghton if she was planning to submit her name.

“I have to think about it. I thought I had made my decision. I think Tom would be a wonderful Vice Chair. I haven’t had a chance to grow into this position, I’ve only had it for two months. During the past two months, my head has been in the handbook and so I haven’t been able to do much about it. When you, Tom, talk about the future of this position, I looked at the old handbook today and obviously it actually did come up with the email about the agenda for this meeting and stuff about the new duties for the Chair and there were a few lines about the Vice Chair. And I went, ‘oh, look, that’s what we’re supposed to be doing, I never knew that.’ About procedure and process for the Arts Commission, that the Vice Chair is actually supposed to be responsible for that. Although a year ago, I had the harebrained idea of having two arts commission meetings a month. Which, to tell you the truth, I’m so glad that you squashed. During the Strategic Planning

Ad Hoc Committee that I've been working on for the past year since that seminal meeting, as you mentioned. They threw down the gauntlet and I picked it up. I've done a lot of reading and I've been reading about how not-for-profits manage. I think I've picked up a lot of tips. And I'd love to share those with you. And I hope that you would be tolerant enough and open enough to even try some of these ideas that some of these books put forward. All those ideas are to help us work smarter and that's what we need to do especially if we do change our strategy about how we want to go forward. So, there you go."

Leban asked: "So, what does that mean? Does that mean that you want to run?"

Houghton answered: "I'll run for Vice Chair."

Leban asked: "I've got one question, which is the year after this one would be your last one, right? Is that right?"

Bettencourt stated: "Actually, her term ends in March and I was hoping to catch you before you came in to see if you had submitted your letter of intent to the Mayor's Office. So, your position will be pending the Mayor's reappointment. Your term ends March 31st and so that would need to be done fairly soon. That letter would need to be submitted and the Mayor's office, of course, makes the decision whether to continue members. She looks at her balance and all that. And that would be done in February. You would then have another three full years."

Leban continued: "So my question is basically the same question that Kay asked of Tom, would you be interested in being Chair a year later, after having been Vice Chair for a year?"

Houghton replied: "It depends on how this year goes. Not as Vice Chair, but what the Arts Commission does basically. I have high hopes for what we can accomplish this year but I've also been on the Arts Commission for almost five years now and I know that things move very slowly. And, to tell you the truth, I'm getting a little impatient. So, I want things to start moving."

Davis stated: "I have a question for the Chair candidates, since we have a situation where both candidates have served in the position before, is there anything that either of you would plan to do differently from your past service in the coming year?"

Teller responded: "Yes, certainly. I feel that mentoring and leadership is a key component to the long term success of the commission and I would very much like to have the Vice Chair be well-groomed to step into the Chair position. That's one thing that I would like to do differently, to be far more inclusive in my interaction with the Vice Chair. To be sure that the Vice Chair is aware of everything I do, every step of the way, so that he or she could step right into my

position. I would mentor the Vice Chair in a way that I could leave at any moment and the Vice Chair would be able to step into my position.”

Leban answered: “I would have a rather different answer which is that it’s up to you guys. I respond to feedback and I responded to feedback during the last year. If it’s polite feedback, that’s okay, and if it’s screaming feedback, I’ve gotten that too, that’s okay. I don’t want to know at the election, I want to know today, I want to know next month, I want to know the month after, if you think I should be doing something different. And if I should, I will. That’s the way I learn. Hasn’t changed from when I was a kid. Sandra and Melna have given me a lot of feedback during the year and it’s been very valuable. I appreciate it greatly. If you think that there is something, I’d love to hear it. Publicly, privately, whatever.”

Houghton suggested that Bettencourt ask Flynn her original question for the Vice Chair candidates. Bettencourt asked: “Basically, from the staff, traditionally the position has had a few duties, they’ve been pretty limited. As our goals expand and strategic planning occurs, how would your position as Vice Chair, be different than it has been in the past? What ideas do you have?”

Flynn replied, “I think that’s a great question and I think it comes back to a bit of what Roy said too which was what does the group also see Vice Chair role fulfilling more so than what’s been happening in the past. I agree with Phil that it would be helpful for the Vice Chair to work more closely with the Chair in a mentoring relationship or whatever you want to call it, so that there’s more information flow back and forth because I would imagine if you’re the Vice Chair and you’re not involved in what’s going on day to day and you step into a meeting to be Chair, you might not be well prepared for that role. So, it could be that one possibility is to have the Vice Chair be more involved in the committees. Maybe not necessarily attending those meetings but being more involved as an intermediary between the commission and the committees. Perhaps getting the minutes and reviewing those so that maybe they could report those to the commission instead of the committee chairs. Let’s say that the Vice Chair were to review the minutes of the committee meetings, not actually write them or go to all the meetings. Just to be involved with what’s going on and report them to the commission. The committee members may also have their own ways that they want to present the information. For me, one of the things I’d like to see us doing more of as a group is to be making further connections in the community in terms of strategic planning efforts. It could be that the Chair and the Vice Chair do some of those visits together, rather than just having the chairperson make those connections in the community. I think maybe having two people going out as representatives for the commission may give us more voice in a meeting with some big potential donor like Microsoft or Safeco or somebody like that.”

Leban stated: “I wanted to give an answer to the same question. My answer is kind of short, but I would love it if the whoever the Vice Chair is, whether it’s Tom or Heidi, if I’m Chair, was more involved. I think it would be great. At the

beginning of the year, Yvette planned to be involved and then she got really busy and then she left and then we didn't have a Vice Chair. Then Heidi finally volunteered and a good example, a sort of indication of how it's been in the past, is that for the agenda for this meeting, Melna and I had schedule problems for the meeting that we normally have to go through the agenda and make sure that we're trying to get it under two hours, for example. And I said, 'well, Heidi can do it' and Melna's reaction was, 'how can Heidi do it?' Probably it's never been the case that the Vice Chair has done that. We ought to be working closely together and I hope that that happens next year whoever the Vice Chair, whoever the Chair is."

Bettencourt asked: "Phil, any comments on that? And then we'll wrap up for time."

Teller replied: "No further comment, I think I've made my point."

Bettencourt then asked if there were any other nominations for the Vice Chair position. There were none. She informed the commissioners that she would ask for one last call before the vote at the February meeting. She thanked the candidates for stepping forward to put themselves up for the positions.

C. SCAN TV Update

Teller reported that he had been unable to shoot the SCAN TV footage because of the rain and that he will use Leban's ROS photos if the rain continues. Tarapolsi stated that she had pulled out questions from the previous ROS interviews at RCTV and will use those for the script. She will bring the final script to the Visual Arts Committee. General information about other programs like Arts in the Parks and the Winter Performance Series will also be included.

D. Arts Awards Nominations/Organization contacts

Skillingstead passed a list of local arts organizations to the commissioners and requested that they each sign up to contact the organizations about making nominations for the 2006 Arts Awards. The nomination form is on the website at www.redmond.gov/insidecityhall/parksrec/artsculture/pdfs/artsawardsform.pdf. *Skillingstead volunteered to distribute the application form by email to the RAC.* Leban suggested that commissioners also call local schools about nominations. Houghton requested that the list of previous recipients include their volunteer association and she reminded the commissioners to make the contacts by the end of January since the nominations are due by the end of February.

E. RAC 2006 Extended Agenda

Leban explained that he and Skillingstead had put together the new Extended Agenda with a main column of items that occur every year and another column of items specific to 2006. He suggested that the commissioners use the extended

agenda and a notebook to organize RAC information. Flynn asked that the extended agenda be reviewed every three months in the regular RAC meeting.

F. Annual Report

Skillingstead reminded the commissioners to send her text and photos for the 2005 Annual Report so she can bring a draft to the February meeting.

VII. PERFORMING/LITERARY ARTS

A. Poet Laureate Proposal/Recommendation

Davis distributed a draft outline proposal for the position of Poet Laureate of the City of Redmond. He recommended a term of four years, nominated by the Mayor with advisement from the RAC, appointed by the City Council, and an honorarium of \$500 per year.

Responsibilities:

1. Promote reading, writing and poetry appreciation among residents of Redmond.
2. Provide at least one public lecture and/or poetry reading annually in Redmond.
3. Compose one poem annually in celebration of Redmond, to be presented to the City Council.

Qualifications:

1. Must be a resident of the City of Redmond.
2. Must have a body of work in poetry that exhibits recognized quality.
3. Must have a body of work in poetry that explores themes of relevance to Redmond.
4. Must have a history of sharing one's poetry publicly.
5. Must be able to fulfill the responsibilities of the position of Poet Laureate of the City of Redmond.

Tarapolsi suggested that Responsibility #1 be more specific by reading, "Promote reading, writing and poetry appreciation among residents of Redmond by providing at least one public lecture and poetry reading at a minimum annually in Redmond." Houghton mentioned that an article in FOCUS magazine had been discussed in the December meeting. Leban suggested that some more duties be added and proposed that the position include additional funding of \$500 per year for the Poet Laureate to put on a program to further promote poetry, like printing poetry books for schools or purchasing supplies to put on a poetry slam. Teller recommended that the position duties include poetry readings at Arts Day and art dedications. Houghton and Leban requested that the term be shortened to two years. Tarapolsi asked that the Poet Laureate be required to join the Literary Arts Committee. Leban suggested that commissioners send their feedback to Davis and that he bring an updated recommendation to the February meeting.

B. Winter Performance Series 2006 Update

Sambamurti read the schedule for the Winter Performance Series:

January 28, 7 pm, Pacific Performing Arts Center performs “A Grand Chinese Cultural Showcase to Celebrate Chinese New Year” at the Redmond Performance Center at Redmond High School.

February 4, 3 pm, Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre performs “Anansi the Spider” at Rose Hill Junior High.

February 11, 7 pm, Tango Fusion Dance Company performs “Colores de Tango” at Rose Hill Junior High.

Tickets will be \$10 and children under 5 are admitted for free. Performing Arts Committee member Pat will be preparing flyers in Chinese to advertise the January performance. Sambamurti thanked sponsors preets casual indian dining, Kanishka Cuisine of India and Wells Fargo Bank, Redmond Branch.

Skillingstead reported that a group had contacted her about doing a brief traditional dragon performance before the January show. ***She will contact the PPAC for their approval of the dragon performance and will contact the dragon dance group about their fees.***

VIII. ARTS EDUCATION/GRANTS

A. 2005 Organizational Support Reports Discussion

Leban asked for any comments on the grant reports and there were none.

B. Arts Education Committee Report

Teller invited the commissioners and the public to join the Arts Ed Committee. He reported that a new member had joined and that they had a spirited discussion about arts education at the last meeting. It was suggested that the RAC consider asking all exhibiting artists to include an arts education component in their shows. Teller attended a Lake Washington School District meeting and reminded the school board of the importance of arts education. Houghton suggested approaching the PTSA's in the district as well as in individual schools. Leban recommended that the RAC attend the meetings as official representatives of the commission to promote arts education. He suggested that Teller bring official recommendations from the Arts Ed Committee forward. Teller stated that the committee was a new body and was still trying to decide how to go forward.

C. 6th Day Dance Grant Update

Bettencourt reported that the staff had contacted the City Attorney on the 6th Day Dance Arts Education Grant concerns about the separation of church and state, their website and their organization. The City Attorney agreed to the grant with

strict criteria. The organization must sign an agreement that the program will not be religious in nature and the RAC must monitor the program, as they do already with grant programs. Bettencourt distributed the guidelines that the City Attorney provided. She stated that staff will be visiting the 6th Day Dance program site and will talk to the group about how they plan to promote the program in a non-religious way. All materials must be approved by City staff. The RAC will be invited to attend the program and if the organization violates the terms of the contract they will not receive funding. Grants are not normally paid until after the programs are complete. 6th Day Dance was affiliated with a church but is now a separate non-profit organization. The program will begin in February and 6th Day Dance will promote through the schools and the Redmond Teen Center.

IX. VISUAL ARTS

A. Andrew Carson Art Dedication January 18

The dedication will take place at noon at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center.

B. Visual Art Projects Update

1. 2006 Arts Award Artist Presentation Discussion

Leban asked for any comments on Marita Dingus' presentation. He expressed concern that she thought the RAC wanted a figure. Davis suggested that the RAC give her some guidelines since they are commissioning the works. Houghton stated that they had given an artist more guidelines once and that she was not as happy with the final results. Leban recommended giving a specific size requirement for the City of Redmond logo and the names. He felt that the RAC should convey any issues that they agree upon to the artist and asked if there were any items that needed to be passed on. Tarapolsi stated that it was more important for the RAC to give opinions as individuals than to dictate to the artist.

2. Gallery Management Update

Skillingstead stated that she is working on an RFP for a call for a new curator for the ORSCC Gallery and the new City Hall Gallery. She met with the City Hall building manager for his input on potential issues. The RFP should be ready for distribution in February and the commissioners were invited to give her more names to submit bids for proposals. Houghton suggested Cornish Art School and Henry Art Gallery be contacted for students in curatorial programs. Tarapolsi suggested program volunteer, Judy Hewitt. Bettencourt reported that once the details are finalized with the City Hall building manager, the RFP will go to the Visual Arts Committee for input.

3. ROS Program and discussion

Leban suggested moving the ROS discussion to the Visual Arts Committee. Tarapolsi asked staff to send the public comment on the ROS exhibit and Nemata to First Mutual Bank on ROS stationery.

4. 2007 International Sculpture Exhibit Update

Teller reported that a new date of February 10 was selected for the visit to the International Sculpture Exhibit. Teller, Tarapolsi and Skillingstead are planning to go and will report back to the RAC.

X. GENERAL NEW BUSINESS

- Tarapolsi distributed information on the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Skillingstead passed around her business cards with the new City of Redmond logo and stated that *she will be ordering new cards for the commissioners.*

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by: Commissioner Tarapolsi

Second by: Commissioner Flynn

Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Dorie Lysaght

NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:

February 9, 2006

Old Redmond School House Community Center

7:00 p.m.

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: January 12, 2006

Audience Present

Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ted Pankowski	Eastside Association of Fine Arts	425-486-5741
Joe MacKechnie	Eastside Association of Fine Arts	206-930-4101
Karen Besserman	SecondStory Repertory	425-881-6777
Marita Dingus	Auburn	253-833-8762
Maxine Dingus	Auburn	253-833-8762
Linda J. Teller	9712 167 th Ave NE, Redmond	425-885-3516
Lisa Shine	17325 NE 85 th Pl, Redmond	425-275-3670